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Newsletter of the Newport Township Community Organization Editors: Heidi and Paul Jarecki

"The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams." ~ Eleanor Roosevelt



Birdfeeder on Engle Street in Glen Lyon

Newport Township Public Business

By John Jarecki ~ The following is an account of Newport Township public business arranged in two parts. The first is a discussion of continuing projects and the second a discussion of items commented on or acted on by the Township Commissioners at their monthly meetings in October, November, and December 2024.

Nanticoke-West Nanticoke Bridge

Luzerne County now has access to \$55 million from casino gambling revenue that the County Council intends to spend on improvements to County roads and bridges. The Council has for some time been considering using at least part of this money for the replacement or repair of the Nanticoke-West Nanticoke bridge, which has structural problems that have reduced its vehicle weight limit to 15 tons. In November 2023, Benesch Engineering consulting firm gave the County three options for work on the Nanticoke bridge: full replacement taking 3.3 years at a cost of \$64 million and two rehabilitation options, one taking 3.1 years, at a cost of \$47.8 million, and the second taking 2.6 years at a

cost of \$39.6 million. Benesch recommended full replacement of the bridge.

On January 23, 2024 Newport Township Commissioner John Zyla, Nanticoke Fire Chief Mark Boncal, Gail Conrad (Adviser to the Plymouth Township Supervisors), and Newport Township Manager Joe Hillan attended a meeting of the Luzerne County Council to express their opinion that complete replacement of the bridge, in order to accommodate more traffic, is the only way that this project will give access to the Lower South Valley for future economic and residential development.

At a County Council session on February 12, 2024, Terence Ostrowski, President/CEO of the nonprofit Earth Conservancy headquartered in Ashley, spoke at the request of the Lower South Valley Council of Governments, which believes that full replacement is necessary. He said that nearly 1,800 acres of economic development space is available in a corridor starting at the Dan Flood Industrial Park just outside Nanticoke and continuing into Newport Township, and that county officials should ensure the

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bridge plan they select can accommodate the increased traffic that he expects to come with development of this land.

In April 2024, Luzerne County received an additional \$10 million in federal funding for the bridge through the State's Transportation Improvement Program. In order to use the additional funding the County must conduct the project through the Engineering and Construction Management System of the State's Department of Transportation (PennDot).

In order to comply with PennDot's process, the County cannot use the Benesch recommendation as the basis for the project. Instead, the County must now solicit and review letters of interest from three engineering firms. On Tuesday August 13, 2024, the Council approved a resolution that puts the project into the PennDot's Engineering and Construction Management System.

Glen Lyon Curb and Sidewalk Improvement Project: Funded by a \$1.4 million Luzerne County Infrastructure Improvement Grant that the Township received in 2018, this project has repaired sidewalks and curbs along Main Street in Glen Lyon. In February of 2022, the Township asked for bids for the project and in March awarded a contract to Multiscape Inc. of Pittston to do the work at a cost of \$1,117,190.03. Multiscape started work in April of 2022 and completed the project in December 2023. Looking ahead toward further improvements, the Commissioners authorized Township Manager Joe Hillan to apply for a State gaming grant to extend the original sidewalk project by adding small lengths of sidewalk that need to be replaced, but were skipped because of cost, such as those in front of K-Val convenience store and St. Nicholas Church. In November 2024, State Representative Alec Ryncavage notified the Township that it was awarded a State gaming grant for \$261,000 for the extended work.

Blighted Property Remediation Project: During 2021 Newport Township received a State Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) Blight Remediation grant of \$289,970 and an LSA (gaming) grant of \$250,000 for acquisition and demolition of blighted properties.

Township officials first get permission from the owner to demolish the building, with the owner then keeping possession of the land on which the building stood.

There were 22 buildings in the first seven Groups of properties chosen for demolition. The total cost of their demolition amounted to \$391,000. In addition, the building at 69-71 West Main Street in Glen Lyon (formerly Tarnowski's Store) was also demolished in May 2022 at a cost of \$22,000 after a Luzerne County court ordered an emergency demolition.

In November 2023 Township officials announced that an Eighth Group of buildings, consisting of 28 Line Street and 48 Newport Street, was chosen for demolition. In February 2024 they awarded a contract to Smart Recycling to demolish 28 Line Street at a cost of \$11,800. Smart Recycling completed the demolition in March 2024.

In September 2024, Bdaric Construction was awarded the contract for the demolition of the building at 48 Newport Street and the garage at 69-71 West Main Street. The company completed the work in mid October of 2024. The Lower South Valley Land Bank, which acquired the properties in 2023, paid the cost of the work. In addition, the contractor constructed a fence along the sidewalk at 128 West Main Street, another Land Bank owned property. The total cost of the work was \$52,000.

Street Repaving Project: During 2022 and 2023, the Township carried out an extensive project of repaving Township streets that was funded by a Covid-9 Recovery Funds Grant and a \$565,960 grant from Luzerne County's Community Development Office.

In September 2023, the Commissioners awarded a contract to low bidder Penny Supply, at a cost of \$231,416.35, to pave selected streets in Newport Township with funds from the Luzerne County Community Development Office that were left from the grant used earlier in the year to pave Vandermark Road in Wanamie and Newport Street in Glen Lyon.

In May 2024, Penny Supply completed paving the following streets: in Sheatown, Logan Street, Fair Street, Fair Lane, Woodbridge Drive, and Stoney Lane; in Glen Lyon, Church Street, Rock Street, Coal Street from Spring to East Main Street. Paving of Center Street in Wanamie was partially completed in the Fall.

In July 2024, the Commissioners authorized Township Manager Joe Hillan to submit an application for a grant of \$766,678.99 for paving James and Mark Streets and Vista and Overlook Drives under the Multimodal Transportation Fund of the State's Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED).

In August 2024, the Luzerne County Office of Community Development (OCD) notified the Township that it will make available \$183,791.00 for paving several Glen Lyon streets, Water Street, North Market Street, and Railroad Street from North Market to Depot Street, and for construction of wheelchair ramps at intersections in the area. The wheelchair ramps are required by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). This work was completed in October of 2024.

In October of 2024, the Lower South Valley Council of Governments finished its 2024 paving projects of the following streets: a section of roadway in Glen Lyon, the entrance to the Newport Center Cemetery, two alleys in Wanamie near Center Street, and an alley in Sheatown.

Lower South Valley Land Bank: In August 2022, the Commissioners approved Ordinance #2 of 2022 authorizing the Township Manager to enter into an intergovernmental cooperation agreement with other parties of Luzerne County for the purpose of establishing the Lower South Valley Land Bank.

In September of 2023, Township Manager Joe Hillan announced that the South Valley Land Bank had acquired four properties at the August Luzerne County Judicial Sale: 1) 48 Newport Street (the building was demolished in October, 2024), 2) 5 Arch Street (the building will be evaluated for either sale or demolition), 3) 69-71 West Main Street (a garage on the property was demolished in October, 2024) and 4) 128 West Main Street (this is a vacant lot that will be put up for sale in such a way as to keep it on the tax rolls). All properties are in Glen Lyon. Under Pennsylvania law, a land bank has the advantage of being able to acquire a property at a judicial tax sale (free and clear sale) without having to bid.

In November 2024, the Commissioners appointed Township Manager Joseph Hillan as a member of the Lower South Valley Land Bank Board of Directors.

October 7, 2024: Residents' Comments: A Glen Lyon resident called attention to the nuisance behavior of a neighbor, who ignores parking regulations and litters the street.

Meeting Business: The Commissioners approved a continuation of the agreement with Luzerne County by which the County collects Township taxes through the calendar year 2025.

The Commissioners voted to hire Timothy Danko as a full time Department of Public Works employee.

Township Manager Joe Hillan included the following items in his report:

- 1) On September 25, the Township received \$99,605.18 in State Aid for its police and non-uniform pension plans.
- 2) On September 17, the Township paid back the money it borrowed through a general obligation note of \$150,000 for construction of the new Municipal Building. A general obligation (GO) note is a municipal bond that is backed by the issuer's full faith and credit. The issuer, usually a state or local government, pledges to use its tax revenues to pay the interest and principal on the debt. The obligation was paid before it was due.
- 3) On September 19, the Kochanski Company completed its 2023 audit of Township funds finding that all is in order.
- 4) Joseph Holocheck, a Boy Scout who is a resident of Newport Township, had previously asked the Commissioners for permission to construct and install multiple benches along the walking trail in the Wanamie Recreation Park as a service project. This project would meet one of the requirements for earning the rank of Eagle Scout. Joseph completed installation of the benches in October.

November 6, 2024: Residents' Comments: A resident said that, in his opinion, his neighbor was violating the burning ordinance, but Township police did not agree. Commissioner John Zyla said he would hold a meeting with the Police Chief and the resident to resolve the matter.

Meeting Business: The Commissioners approved a proposed amendment to the Articles of Incorporation of the Newport Township Sewer Authority in order to increase its term of existence by two years. They also appointed Dawson Jenkins to a five-year term on the Sewer Authority.

The Commissioners approved a resolution declaring the Township's intention to enter into an asset purchase agreement to sell the sewerage collection facilities owned by the Newport Township Sewer Authority

to the Wyoming Valley Sanitary Authority.

The Commissioners voted to apply for State gaming grants for the following purposes: installing playground equipment at the corner of Stralka Lane and Railroad Street in Glen Lyon, paving two streets in the Whitney Pointe section of the Township, replacing sidewalks between West Enterprise Street and Water Street in Glen Lyon, and paving five additional streets in the Township.

The Commissioners voted to hire Joan Bullock as a part-time crossing guard.

The Commissioners voted to advertise for sale the Township's 2015 Ford F750 truck on Muncibid.

December 2, 2024: Residents' Comments: A Glen Lyon resident called attention to a lack of enforcement of the building code in her neighborhood. She said that renters were living in housing that failed to comply with the building code.

Meeting Business: The Commissioners approved the Kilmer Group as insurance agent for the Township for 2025 in matters involving risk management and auto insurance.

The Commissioners approved a three year employment agreement between the Township and the Township's Fire Engine Drivers Association. The agreement covers the period 2025 through 2027.

The Commissioners approved an employment agreement between the Township and Joseph Hillan to serve as Township Manager and Building Code Official for the year 2025.

The Commissioners approved the Township Budget for 2025 and set tax rates and refuse and recycling fees for 2025. (A separate article on the 2025 Budget describes these matters in detail. Please see page 10.)

The Commissioners approved a contract between Newport Township and the nonprofit organization No Nonsense Neutering (NNN). According to the contract, NNN will neuter and vaccinate 50 feral/free-roaming cats. The cost will be divided between NNN and the Township. Residents of the Township can use this service by picking up a voucher at the Township Municipal Building.

Township Manager Joe Hillan included the following items in his report:

- 1) The Township received the deed for the property at 100 Railroad Street in Glen Lyon. The deed was signed and recorded at the County Recorder of Deeds Office. The Township therefore now owns the Railroad Street property on which a playground will be constructed.
- 2) The Lower South Valley Council of Governments (LSVCOG) fueling station in Hanover Township is nearing completion. When completed, it will reduce the cost of fuel for the Township.
- 3) On November 27, the Township received a letter from the State Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) informing the Township that it was awarded a \$158,197 Recycling Compactor Grant. According to the terms of the grant, the Township will not be able to recycle glass items. Instead, the township will place a dumpster in the Municipal Building parking lot in which residents can put glass recyclables.

NTCO President's Report

By Stephen Phillips ~ As you are reading this Newsletter, Christmas and New Year's Day have passed. However, we would be remiss if we did not extend our wishes for a happy, healthy, and financially rewarding New Year.

We are entering a New Year. Therefore it is important for the Newport Township Community Organization members to renew their dues for 2025. The cost is \$5.00 per year. Checks should be sent to the Newport Township Community Organization, 113 Railroad Street, Wanamie, PA 18634. Subscribers to this publication who have the document mailed to them are requested to remit their \$10.00 fee to Heidi and Paul Jarecki, 28 West Main Street, Glen Lyon, PA 18617. Even though the NTCO is a non-profit entity, it still requires funding to continue to operate.

It cost the Organization over \$2,300 to print and mail each edition of the Newsletter. The subscription fee of \$10.00 per year is not a fundraising endeavor. The Newsletter is a labor of love for the Organization and especially for our co-editors. To help insure that we continue this effort, it is important that all of our subscribers pay our mailing costs.

Sincere thanks and appreciation are given to all those who have continued to financially support the NTCO. Recent donations and new memberships and renewals have been received from the following: Trudy Knorr, Marge Zastavny, Louise Buckley, Adelaide Kushibab, Barbara Kline, George Strish, Ben and Harriet Ketcham, Eugene and Nancy Macur, Richard and Mary Ann Reale, Edward and Barbara Haines, Rosemary Kloap, Eleanore Pish, Gregory Lester, Illaria Steele, Cosmas Curry, Rev. John Boyle, Dee Sugalski, Irene Stralka, and Jim Thomas.

We have maintained our policy of donating to other local groups who assist us in making the Greater Newport Area a better place to live, work, and play. Recent recipients have included the following: The Mill Memorial Library, The Newport Township Women's Activity Group, Reilly Finishing Technology's Christmas Tree Project, Weinberg Northeast Regional Food Bank, and Newport United for its annual Christmas event. We shall strive to continue this effort to aid our philanthropic efforts both directly and in concert with sister bodies. This is why we continue to request that our readers and other area residents strongly consider volunteering their time and donating money to our joint efforts. Unfortunately volunteerism is on the decline among almost all groups.

During the Christmas Season, the NTCO was happy to work in concert with Newport United and aid in helping to make the recent Christmas Tree Lighting Project a successful endeavor. The Community Organization continued to donate to the Christmas Tree Project sponsored by Reilly Finishing Technologies. For a number of years, this company has donated the funds received from area businesses and groups such as the NTCO to public service and non-profit groups within this locale. This entity has been a recipient of Reilly's largess several times in the past.

Your NTCO will continue to assist the Township's Board of Commissioners when requested and recently participated with local officials and other municipal related groups along with Congressman Dan Meuser to dedicate the Township's new fire engine. We continue to advocate that all of our readers and residents continue to monitor local activities and proposed future endeavors to help insure that we have an informed electorate.

In our most recent publication we noted that we are planning to memorialize the Township's 250 Year Establishment which took place in 2023. Our current plan to effectuate this project entails placing a permanent plaque on a large stone in close proximity to the Township Municipal Building. Contributing to this project have been the Township's elected and appointed officials, including the Department of Public Works and Don E. Bower Inc.

The NTCO continues with its food distribution program on the second Saturday of every month at the Township's Municipal Garage. Approximately 185 bags of food are distributed to qualified Township residents. A dedicated group of volunteers has insured the success of this program.

HOMETOWN HEROES BANNERS

Banners honoring residents who served or who are currently serving in the military can be purchased by contacting the Municipal Office at 570-735-4735. Applications will be accepted until February 28, 2025. The fee is the same as last year, \$200. This project is sponsored by Newport United.

Floryshak Family Grant Available for 2025

A grant established to honor the Floryshak Family of Glen Lyon will be available for 2025. The grant is awarded to a deserving senior student from Nanticoke Area High School who resides in Glen Lyon. The award will provide financial assistance in the form of a one-time \$2,000 grant for help with the recipient's educational expenses to an accredited institution. The institution can be a 4 year, 2 year, or vocational program. The recipient will be selected based on positive community involvement as well as school and extracurricular activities.

The donors of the award are Vincent Floryshak and Diane Grudkowski Floryshak, 1971 graduates of Nanticoke Area High School. Interested high school students can receive complete information from the High School Guidance Department.



Shown above and at left is the **Halloween Haunted Legion** on Newport Street in Glen Lyon. Pizza and other goodies were served and everyone got into the spirit. Several groups participated.

On October 10, Newport Township was treated to a rare sighting of the **Aurora Borealis**, also known as the **Northern Lights** which can occur when there is a strong enough geo-magnetic storm. The photo at right was taken in St. Mary's Cemetery in Wanamie by Amy Saraka.



On a recent visit with her son, **Nancy (Tarnowski) James**, her son Bob and his wife Amber take a break to read the *Newport Township Community News* in Kerry Park in Seattle, Washington. Kerry Park is known for its spectacular views of the Space Needle and Mount Rainier along with Elliot Bay and downtown Seattle. Bob and Amber live in Bothell, Washington. Nancy grew up in Glen Lyon and is a resident of Nanticoke.



At left are siblings **Heidi Jarecki** and **Peter Selecky** at the Bradenton FL Beach Pier. It is located on the north side of Sarasota Bay and offers great fishing. Above is **Gene Macur** in Florence, Italy near the Cathedral of Santa Maria del Fiore. It is the third largest church in the world and dates back to the 15th century.



Pictured left are Heidi Jarecki and Parks and Recreation Commissioner Jack Vishnefski taking a break on the walking trail in the Wanamie Recreation Park by utilizing the new benches installed by Joe Holocheck. Joe completed his Eagle Scout Project in October. Good job, Joe!

Rural Water Supply Drill

By Fire Chief Jim Hoffman ~ On November 10, 2024, the Newport Township Fire Department held a joint rural water supply drill in the Glen Lyon section of Newport Township. (See photo at left.) This class was held to work with water tankers from outside agencies to simulate what to do should we have a low water volume supply from the fire hydrants or in the event we were not able to have any water supply from a fire hydrant. We utilized Three-Legged Pond as well as the pond in Lee. Units would have to get water from one of our pumpers drafting water from the pond to fill them, then bring the water to a "dump site" where it would be off loaded into a portable pond. It would then be drafted again and relayed to the "Fire Attack Pumper." This class was not only a refresher for our operators as drafting is not a common skill we utilize within the Township, but also to familiarize ourselves with a tanker shuttle operation. We would like to thank Wright Township Fire Department, Dorrance Township Fire Department, Lake Silkworth Fire Department, Pond Hill-Lily Lake Fire Company, Back Mountain Regional Fire Department, and Nanticoke City Fire Department for participating in this class.



On November 7, the Luzerne County Transportation Authority (LCTA) made a presentation at the Municipal Building to explain how the new "microtransit zone" system works. Residents needing transportation to Nanticoke where they can also transfer to a different route are asked to call LCTA or use an app on their cell phones. Pictured above is the van which is equipped to transport wheelchairs. Buses no longer serve the Township due to low ridership.

ATTENTION NEWPORT TOWNSHIP RESIDENTS

Newport Township is making changes to its recycling program effective January 1, 2025 in conjunction with the grant provisions for our new municipal recycling truck. This change will meet the current glass recycling requirements.

No glass whatsoever will be accepted in curbside containers as of January 1, 2025

At the present time glass is part of the "Orange Can" recycling program, which provided for alternate week comingle (glass, tin and aluminum) and cardboard collection by the Township.

Compliance will be achieved by providing a drop off container at the Newport Township Municipal Building located at 351 West Kirmar Avenue in Wanamie. This container will be under 24/7 video surveillance. Nothing other than household glass (bottles, jars) should be placed in the container (no paper, plastic bags, cardboard, buckets, garbage bags, etc.). Any items placed in or alongside the glass recycling container will be considered (treated as) illegal dumping.

We value our environment and take great pride in our efforts to meet requirements along with cost containment initiatives for our residents. Thank you for understanding and we appreciate your efforts to make the community a great place to live.

Township Manager Joe Hillan



At the **Newport Township Crime Watch** meeting on October 10, members and guests participated in a presentation by the Luzerne County Victim's Resource Center located at East End Centre in Wilkes-Barre Township. The Center provides a comprehensive range of services through advocacy, support groups, crisis intervention and educational programs for victims of crime.



Above: On October 24, **St. Nicholas Church** in Glen Lyon held a basket raffle to benefit Ukraine and a hoagie and vegetable soup sale. Rev. Vasyl Putera serves as pastor.

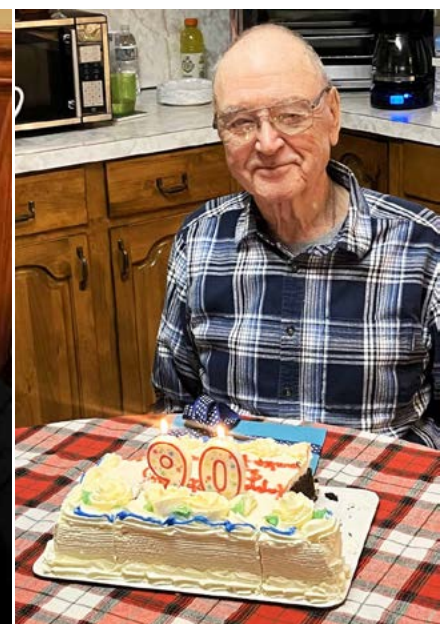


Left: The **American Legion Auxiliary** sponsored a Taste of the Town event on November 10. Several vendors participated.

Right: The **Newport Township Women's Activity Group** held its Fall Bingo in St. Adalbert's Church Hall in Glen Lyon on October 20. Pictured are Brenda Grabowski and caller Faith Kropiewnicki.



Pictured above is the paving of **North Market Street** in Glen Lyon. Funded by a grant from the Luzerne County Office of Community Development (OCD), the paving included Water Street and Railroad Street from North Market to Depot Street. Wheelchair ramps were also constructed at area intersections.



Above left is **Irene Gregory** of Glen Lyon who celebrated her 98th birthday this fall. She has lived in Glen Lyon for over 70 years. At right is **Joe Molski** of Wanamie who celebrated his 90th birthday. The NTCO wishes both of you a healthy and prosperous New Year!



The Newport Township High School All-Class Reunion was held on October 13 at Holy Transfiguration Hall in the Hanover Section of Nanticoke. Over 70 people attended. The Class of 1962 celebrated their 80th birthday and the Class of 1964 celebrated its 60-Year Reunion. The 2025 Reunion is planned for Sunday October 12. Questions can be directed to Heidi and Paul Jarecki at 570-733-2540.

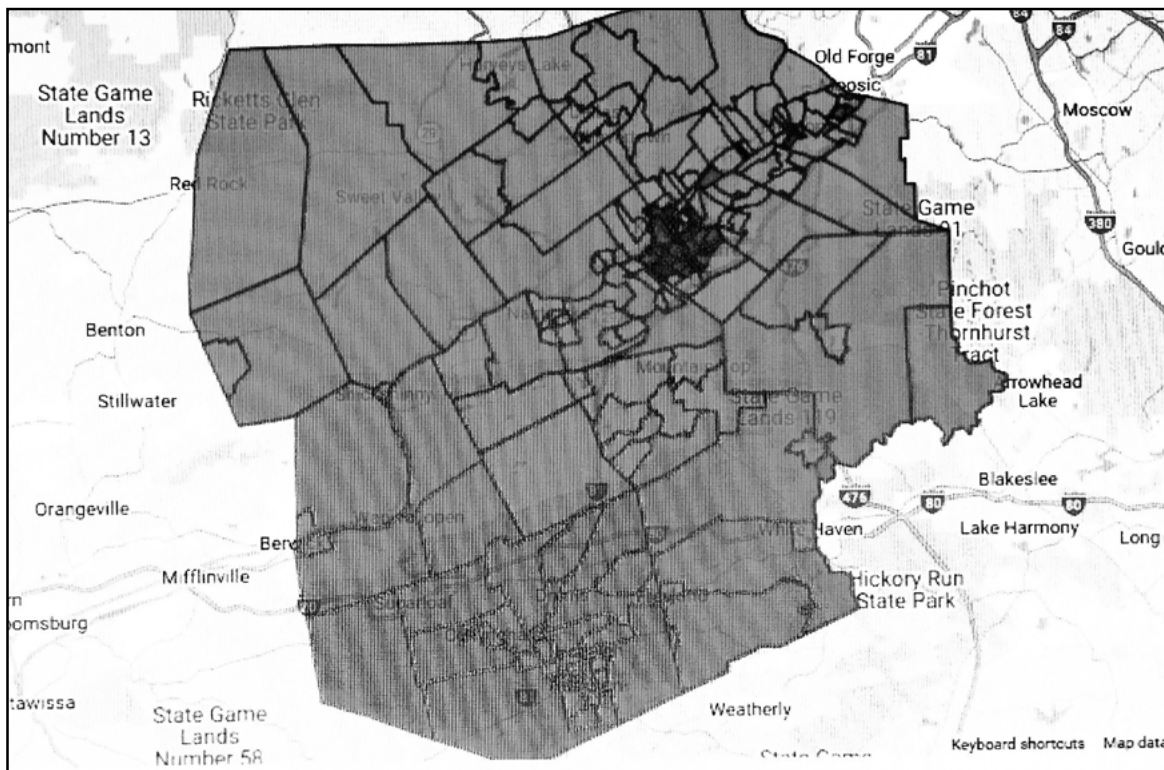




On November 26, federal, state, and local officials joined to dedicate **Newport Township's Fire Truck** in front of the Newport Township Hose House in Wanamie. Rev. Philbert Takyi-Nketiah of Holy Spirit Parish offered blessings and several short speeches were given. Pictured above L to R are: Joe Hillan, Mark Grochocki, Kyle Gruber, Brian Mandak, Norman Bodek, Ron Jones, Bob Shemanski, Congressman Dan Meuser, Michael Shay, Steve Phillips, Rev. Philbert Takyi-Nketiah, Township Commissioner Debbie Zaleski, Township Commissioner John Zyla, Township Commissioner Jack Vishnefski, Dawson Jenkins. The truck was put into service on October 5. The new truck replaces the 45-year old Mack squirt truck.



The new Pierce Saber pumper truck was built in Bradenton FL, and funded through a federal Assistance to Firefighters Grant. Congressman Dan Meuser, R-Dallas, provided a letter of support for the grant, which amounted to \$564,761. The full price was almost \$700,000. Mike Roke serves as Fire Commissioner and Jim Hoffman serves as Fire Chief.



Election Map of Luzerne County

Democratic Wards

Republican Wards

General Election 2024

By Tom Kashatus ~ What do we have here? We have above a map of Luzerne County that shows a massive light gray (red) area and a few spots of dark gray (blue) area. The map is from the Luzerne County Election Bureau and is an overall tell-tale report of the November 5th General Election of candidates for federal and state offices. Light gray signifies Republican majority wards and dark gray signifies Democrat majority wards. This map reflects the results of the registered voting population for President and Vice President of the United States in Luzerne County. You can see that the voters of Luzerne County voted overwhelmingly (especially in rural municipalities) for the Republican Presidential and Vice-Presidential candidates. Democrat candidates for President and Vice President showed some strength in the urban areas of Wilkes-Barre and Pittston. The same held true for United States Senator, United States Congressmen, and Pennsylvania State Representatives, with two exceptions. The winners were: President, Donald Trump (R) and Vice President, J.D. Vance (R) statewide and nationally; United States Senator, David McCormack (R) statewide; United States Congressmen, Rob Bresnahan, Jr. (R) and Dan Meuser (R), both locally and districtwide; Pennsylvania Attorney General, David Sunday, (R), statewide;

Pennsylvania Auditor General, Tim DeFoor (R), statewide; Pennsylvania Treasurer, Stacey Garrity (R), statewide; Pennsylvania State Senators, Lynda Schlegel (R) and Dave Argal (R); and Pennsylvania State Representatives Dane Watro (R); Jamie Walsh (R); Alec Ryncavage (R) of the 119th Legislative District; Brenda Pugh (R); and incumbents Jim Haddock (D) and Eddie Day Pashinski (D) who are the two exceptions to the trend and thereby avoided a Republican landslide. Losers were: United States President Kamala Harris (D) and Vice President Tim Walz (D); United States Senator, Bob Casey (D); United States Congress, Matt Cartwright (D) and Lynn McClelland (D); Pennsylvania Attorney General, Gene DePasquale (D); Pennsylvania Auditor General, Malcolm Kenyatta (D); Pennsylvania Treasurer, Erin McClelland (D); Pennsylvania State Senator, Patricia Lawton (D) and John Zugarek (D); Pennsylvania State Representatives, Deborah Adoff

(D), Megan Kocher (D), Fern Leard (D), and McKayla Kathio (R) and Dino Disler (R) who are the two Republican exceptions.

In other words, the results of the November 5th General Election was a smashing victory for the Republican Party both in Pennsylvania where they control the State Senate and the State House, and in Washington, D.C. where they control the White House, the Senate, and the House of Representatives.

Luzerne County has a total registration of 209,718 registered voters - 88,766 Democrats; 91,448 Republicans; and 29,514 Independent or Other. The total ballots cast in the November 5th General Election were 156,995 or 74.81%. It is worth noting that the 50-year-plus political control experienced by the Democrat Party has flipped in 2024 to a Republican majority with a lead of 2,682.

Information for this report was taken from the following websites: Voting and Election Statistics | Department of State | Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; and Luzerne County Departments; Luzerne County Bureau of Elections.

Super Bowl Sunday Hoagie Sale on February 9 is sponsored by the Altar and Rosary Society, St. Adalbert's Church of Holy Spirit Parish in Glen Lyon. Turkey and/or Italian can be ordered by calling Carol at 570-736-7149 or Heidi at 570-733-2540. Delivery to Newport Township, Nanticoke, and Mocanaqua is available, weather permitting.



Newport Township Crime Watch Christmas Party

On December 12, the Newport Township Crime Watch held a holiday gathering at the Alden Axe Company on East Kirmar Avenue. Some brave souls attempted to hit the target with axes of different weights and sizes. Member Don Reese hit the target not once or twice but several times. It must have been his lucky night, because he even hit the bulls-eye! Pictured at far left are Kevin Barrett, Jane Straub, Heidi Jarecki, Amy Saraka, Janella Albertson and Kevin Allen.

Newport Township Budget for 2025

by John Jarecki

At their meeting on December 2, 2024, the Township Commissioners approved a budget for 2025. The most important points of the 2025 budget are the following.

- 1) Total income and expenditures, which have been increasing on the average by about \$250,000 or 12% per year over the last three years, will decrease by about \$50,000 or 2%.
- 2) Income from the General Government Real Estate Tax is expected to decrease by approximately \$57,000 dollars. Income from the Earned Income Tax is also expected to decrease by approximately \$25,000. And income from Building Code Enforcement is expected to decrease by about \$20,000.
- 3) All tax rates will remain the same.

For the 2025 budget as a whole, the six largest sources of revenue are listed in the following table along with the corresponding amounts from the 2024 budget.

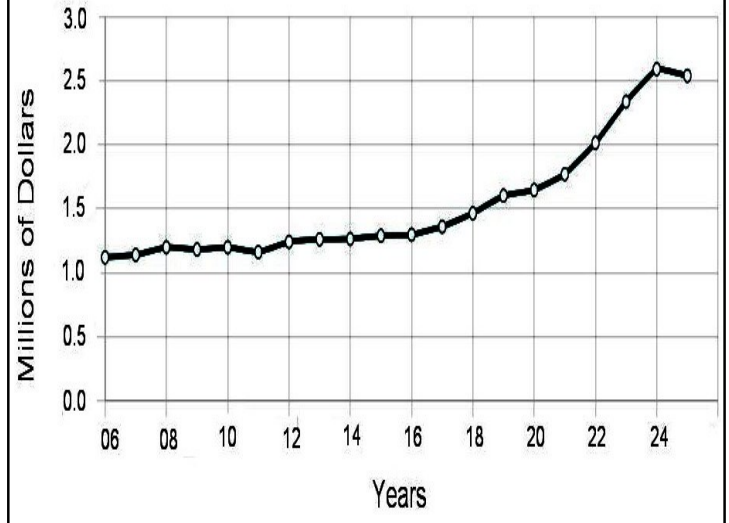
	2025	2024
Real Estate Tax	\$665,946	\$723,000
Refuse and Recycling Fees	650,795	650,795
Earned Income Tax	504,887	530,000
Fuels Payment from State	124,859	126,101
Building Code Enforcement	121,305	121,500
State Shared Revenue	101,500	103,526
Total Revenue	\$2,539,147	\$2,291,382

These six sources amount to approximately 85% of total income. The major changes in these figures, as mentioned above, are the expected decreases in income from the General Government Real Estate Tax, Earned Income Tax, and Building Code Enforcement. Township officials look at the average income from these taxes over the previous three years in order to estimate income from these taxes in the coming year. This is at least partially accounts for lower estimates of income for 2025, and also for lower estimates of expenditures.

Tax rates remain the same as in 2024. The following is a list of Township taxes and fees and their rates for 2025.

Real Estate Tax		Earned Income Tax	.50%
(for General Government)	4.00 mills	Real Estate Transfer Tax	.50%
(for Fire Protection)	.50 mills	Per Capita Tax	\$5
Emergency and Municipal Tax	\$52	Trash and Recycling Fee	\$385

Newport Township Budget 2006-2025



The six largest expenditures from the 2025 budget are listed in the following categories along with the corresponding amounts from the 2024 budget.

	2025	2024
Refuse and Recycling	\$560,650	\$560,650
Police Department	452,517	444,441
Street Department	359,723	354,677
Employee Fringe Benefits	354,474	336,857
General Government	310,895	343,400
Fire Department	302,669	328,655
Total Expenditures	\$2,539,146	\$2,591,380

These categories amount to approximately 92% of total expenses. The major changes here are decreases of approximately \$32,000 in the amount spent on General Government, about \$26,000 in the amount spent on the Fire Department, and about \$10,000 on spending for Building Code Enforcement. Spending on debt service decreased from \$44,900 last year to zero because the Township paid off in full a \$150,000 loan to complete construction of the new Municipal Building. In contrast, there are increases of about \$28,000 in spending for insurance and \$20,000 in spending for Employee Fringe benefits.

The above chart shows the changes in total expenditures in the Township budget from 2006 to 2025. Changes in income over the period follow expenditures closely. For the period 2006 to 2016, the income and expenses increased at a rate of about 1.5%, slightly less than the inflation rate of 2% for the period. From 2016 to 2021, however, Township officials, more active in managing finances, increased revenue and expenditures by an average of about 6% a year. For 2021 to 2024, revenue and expenditures increased by about 12% per year. For 2025, expenditures are expected to decrease by about 2% from the year before.



PULASKI SCHOOL RENOVATION

By Tom Kashatus ~
The former Pulaski School at the corner of South Market and Newport Streets in Glen Lyon is being renovated into apartments. The project is extensive and will take a year or two to complete. The School was dedicated on September 7, 1925.

The Flora and Fauna of Newport Township

Crows

By Heidi and Paul Jarecki ~

One fall morning we were sitting on our back porch at our house in Glen Lyon when the silence was broken by a loud sound of "caw caw." We looked up and three crows flew overhead toward Retreat Mountain. Crows are everywhere.

Corvus is a widely distributed genus of medium-size-to-large birds in the family Corvidae. It includes species commonly known as crows,



ravens and rooks. They are medium-large birds ranging from 13 inches to 24–28 inches. Their coloration is dominated by shades of black, with some species having plumage with metallic iridescence and others that have white or gray areas on the neck or torso. Members of this genus occur on all temperate continents except South America and several islands. American crows are highly adaptable and will live in any open place that offers a few trees to perch in and a reliable source of food. They regularly use both natural and human-created habitats, including farmland, pasture, landfills, city parks, golf courses, cemeteries, yards, vacant lots, highway roundabouts, feed-lots, and the shores of rivers, streams, marshes, and beaches. Crows tend to avoid unbroken expanses of forest, but do show up at forest campgrounds and travel into forests along roads and rivers.

The genus was originally described by Carl Linnaeus in his 1758 10th edition of *Systema Naturae*. The name is derived from the Latin *corvus* meaning "raven." The type species is the common raven. Other species include the carrion crow, the hooded crow, and the rook. At least 42 extant species are now considered to be members of *Corvus*, and at least 14 extinct species have been described.

The members of the genus *Corvus* are believed to have evolved in Central Asia from the corvid stock, which had evolved in Australia and radiated out from there into North America, Africa, and Europe. Crows are found in major cities across the world, and a major increase in the number of crows in urban settings has occurred since the 1900s. Historical records suggest that the population of crows found in North America has been growing steadily since the introduction of European colonization, and spread east to west with the opening of the frontier. Populations in the west increased substantially from the late 1800s to the mid-1900s. Crows and ravens spread along with agriculture and urbanization into the western part of North America.

Crows are omnivorous, and their diet is very diverse. They will eat almost anything, including other birds, fruits, nuts, mollusks, earthworms, seeds, frogs, eggs, nestlings, mice, and carrion. The origin of placing scarecrows in grain fields resulted from the crow's incessant damaging and scavenging, although crows assist farmers by eating harmful insects attracted to their crops.

Crow Facts

1. The collective name for a group of crows is a "flock" or a "murder." Crows gather in large communal roosts numbering between 200 and tens of thousands of individuals during nonbreeding months, particularly in the winter. These gatherings tend to happen near large food sources such as garbage dumps and shopping centers.
2. Crows and the other members of the genus make a wide variety of calls or vocalizations. Crows' vocalizations are complex and poorly understood. Crows have also been observed to respond to calls of other species; presumably, this behavior is learned because it varies regionally.
3. Along with other birds, ravens have been known to associate with other animals like coyotes and wolves. These associations are linked to feeding and hunting. Ravens use their calls to notify these animals when an injured prey is near.
4. As a group, crows show remarkable examples of intelligence. Natural history books from the 18th century recount an often-repeated, but unproven anecdote of "counting" crows; specifically a crow

whose ability to count to five is established through a logic trap set by a farmer.

5. Crows and ravens often score very highly on intelligence tests. One species, the New Caledonian crow, has also been intensively studied recently because of its ability to manufacture and use tools in the day-to-day search for food. Crows have demonstrated the ability to distinguish individual humans by recognizing facial features.

6. Some crows may live to the age of 20, and the oldest known American crow in the wild was almost 30 years old. The oldest documented captive crow died at age 59.

7. Crows are highly social birds, more often seen in groups than alone. In addition to roosting and foraging in numbers, crows often stay together in year-round family groups that consist of the breeding pair and offspring from the past two years. The whole family cooperates to raise the young. Winter roosts of American crows sometimes number in the hundreds of thousands.

8. Crows have to deal with a menagerie of predators, such as hawks, owls, coyotes, and raccoons. To ward them off, the corvids exploit the fact that there can be strength in numbers. Upon seeing a would-be attacker, crows are known to gather, with some groups consisting of a dozen birds or more. Individual crows then swoop down to deliver passing blows with their beaks, often inflicting serious bodily injury in the process.

9. A blackbird is a type of thrush, smaller and quite different in appearance to crows and ravens. However, the term "black bird" is sometimes used to refer generally to a crow, raven or bird with black plumage.

10. Crows are important symbolic figures in many mythologies, religions and cultures across the world. It is unsurprising these associations have filtered into literature over the centuries, and particularly into fantasy fiction, which often draws on ancient legend and myth.

11. Ravens and crows have appeared in multiple tales, nursery rhymes and works of literature. Shakespeare often used ravens to create a sense of foreboding or impending murder. Most memorable is perhaps Edgar Allan Poe's poem "The Raven," with its iconic refrain "Quoth the Raven 'Nevermore,'" firmly associating the raven with death and bad omens.

12. The expression "eating crow" is a colloquial idiom, used in some English-speaking countries, that means humiliation by admitting having been proven wrong after taking a strong position.

13. Over the centuries, The Tower of London has held captive crows because of a legend which says that the monarchy will collapse the day the crows leave the Tower.

Sources: Wikipedia, <https://www.mentalfloss.com/article/504722/12-fascinating-facts-about-crows>, <https://www.livescience.com/52716-crows-ravens.html>; <https://www.wonders-of-the-world.net/Tower-of-London/Crows-of-the-tower-of-London.php>



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Obituaries

By Tom Kashatus ~ These obituaries are in reference to individuals who have ties to Newport Township and/or Newport Township High School. They are published in abbreviated form due to limited space; thusly, a more complete obituary can be found on our website, www.newporttownship.com. There is also a link leading to the original newspaper obituary or that of the funeral home. Your comments are always welcome and if someone is missed, please notify this writer at tomkashatus@gmail.com or call 570-736-6981.

BELLES, Dane L., 78, of Nescopeck Township, formerly of Newport Township, passed away August 30, 2024, at Geisinger Medical Center, Danville. Dane was the son of the late Leonard T. and Helen G. (nee Parks) Belles. He was raised in Glen Lyon and graduated from Newport Township High School with the Class of 1964. He served honorably in the United States Army in Germany from 1969-1972. He worked at Consolidated Cigar (now Altadis USA Inc.) in McAdoo. He is survived by his wife of 55 years, Sandra K. (nee Miller) Belles.

JONES, James "Jim," 93, of Nanticoke, and formerly of Newport Township, passed away September 2, 2024, at his home. Jim was the son of the late William Rinehimer and Harriet (nee Jones) Rinehimer. He was raised in Wanamie and graduated from Newport Township High School with the Class of 1948. After graduation he worked for Glen Alden Coal Company prior to being drafted into the US Army and then serving in Korea and Germany. After military service he was employed at Retreat State Hospital and retired from Connecticut Valley Hospital of Middletown, CN. Jim was predeceased by his wife of 20 years, Helen McKenna. He is survived by his siblings, Barbara (nee Rinehimer) Fletcher and Kenneth Rinehimer; and caregivers, niece Erin Fletcher and friend Donald Benish.

BECKER, Leon T., 65, of Alden, passed away September 1, 2024, at his home. Leon was the son of Ann Marie (nee Harvey) Becker and the late Earl W. Becker Jr. He was raised in Alden and graduated from John S. Fine High School with the Class of 1976. He was a member of Plumbers & Pipefitters Union, Local 524, and was employed by J. L. Turner Company (later Marx) of Wilkes Barre. Leon is survived by his son, Michael Becker (wife, Jordyn) of Nanticoke; sister, Cheryl Becker of Alden; and sister-in-law, Georgina Becker of Wanamie.

SIPPLE, Hunter James, 17, of Glen Lyon, passed away September 1, 2024, at Geisinger Wyoming Valley Medical Center. Hunter was the son of the late Glen Sipple and Sue Sipple of Glen Lyon. Hunter was mostly raised in Glen Lyon and attended schools in the Greater Nanticoke Area School District. He is survived by his grandpa, James Sipple of Glen Lyon and mother, Sue Sipple.

BOROFSKI, Romayne Anne (nee Buchkowski), 91, formerly of Glen Lyon, passed away September 7, 2024, at Wesley Village, Jenkins Township. Romayne was born in Glen Lyon and she was the daughter of the late John and Amelia (Yarasavage) Buchkowski. She was a graduate of Newport Township High School with the Class of 1951 and Wilkes-Barre Business College. She was a long-time member of Saint Adalbert's Church. Romayne was predeceased by her husband of 35 years, Eugene J. Borofski and brother, Gerald Buchkowski. She is survived by her daughter, Deborah Michalek (husband, Joseph) and son, Richard Borofski (wife, Karen).

JANOSOV, Theodora "Teddi" (nee Stempien), 76, of Sheatown, passed away September 7, 2024, at home. Teddi graduated from John S. Fine High School. She worked at LCCC for 53 years mainly as the secretary for the Student Life and Athletics Department. She was predeceased by her husband, Robert Janosov.

DUDA, Donna (nee Margelewicz), 71, of Wanamie, passed away September 9, 2024, at Cedar Crest Hospital, Lehigh Valley. Donna was the daughter of the late Charles and Betty Margelewicz. She was a graduate of Lourdesmount High School with the Class of 1971. After graduation she received a certificate in Nursing and worked as an LPN at Wilkes Barre General Hospital. Donna was predeceased by her husband of 49 years, Frank Duda. She is survived by her son, Daniel and sisters, Rhea Donaldson, Shelly Jones of Nanticoke, and Joan (husband, Jim) Schonfeld of Sheatown.

ADAMS, Kenneth M., 81, of the Hanover Section of Nanticoke, passed away September 23, 2024, at Commonwealth Health Wilkes-Barre General Hospital. Kenneth was the son of the late Daniel and

Eunice (nee Cragle) Adams. He was raised in Wanamie and attended Newport Township schools and High School. He was an Army veteran stationed at West Point and later served in France. He had a lengthy career working for UPS. Kenneth was predeceased by his wife, Marlene (nee Kochan) Adams. He is survived by his fiancée, Lillian Dewald; sons, Robert Adams and Kenneth Adams, Jr.; siblings, Frank Adams, Patricia Adams Graboske and Linda Adams Hanlon of Glen Lyon.

ROBACHESKI, Helen (nee Baran), 95, life resident of Alden, passed away September 27, 2024, at Birchwood Healthcare and Rehabilitation Center, Nanticoke. Helen was the daughter of the late Michael and Mary (nee Skopek) Baran. She was raised in Alden and attended Newport Township Schools and High School. She had been employed by RCA of Mountain Top and Penn Footwear and General Cigar of Nanticoke. She was a member of Saint Faustina Kowalska Parish. Helen was predeceased by her husband of 60 years, Lawrence A. "Robey" Robacheski; and daughter, Christine Stewart. She is survived by her sons, Lawrence J. Robacheski Jr.; David Robacheski at home; and Kenneth Robacheski of Nanticoke.

ZIDEK, William "Bill", 83, of Bloomsburg, formerly of Pond Hill, passed away September 30, 2024, at Lehigh Valley Hospital in Pottsville. Bill was the son of the late William M. and Mary (nee Slavick) Zidek. He was a graduate of Newport Township High School with the Class of 1959. Bill was a veteran of the US Army serving after high school. He worked as a brick layer and mason with Local Union # 5 of Wilkes-Barre retiring after 40 years. He attended Saint John's United Church of Christ of Wapwallopen. Bill is survived by his wife of 35 years, Bette Jane (nee Keiser) Zidek.

MORGIS, Donald J., 87, of Alden, formerly of Glen Lyon, passed away October 3, 2024, at Commonwealth Health Wilkes-Barre General Hospital. Donald was the son of the late Leonard and Louise (nee Makowski) Morgis. He was a graduate of Newport Township High School with the Class of 1955, Wilkes College, and the University of Scranton with a Master's Degree. He worked for his parents in the Morgis Flower Business and retired from teaching at Crestwood after 43 years. He spent much time involved as a player or volunteer in sports, i.e., slo-pitch softball, Little League, Biddy Basketball, and Crestwood Junior Baseball. Donald is survived by his wife of 65 years, Anne (nee Zegarski) Morgis; and sons, Dennis and Mark.

PASCOE, Marie C. (nee Urbanski), 73, of Sheatown, formerly of Nanticoke, passed away October 3, 2024, at home. Marie was the daughter of the late John and Victoria Urbanski. She was raised in Nanticoke and graduated from John S. Fine High School and Mercy Hospital School of Nursing as a Registered Nurse. During her 40-year career she worked at the Mercy Hospital, General Hospital, and Veterans Administration Hospital, all in Wilkes Barre. Marie is survived by her husband of 40 years, David Pascoe; sons, Scott Brennan and Daniel Pascoe; brother, David Urbanski; and sister, Paulette Augustine.

KIEWLAK, Carol Ann, 78, of Wanamie, formerly of Nanticoke, passed away September 29, 2024, at Allied Services Nursing Center, Wilkes-Barre. Carol Ann was the daughter of the late Frank and Julia (nee Mishnak) Kiewlak. She was raised in Nanticoke and graduated from Nanticoke High School. She was a member of Saint Faustina Kowalska Parish. Carol Ann is survived by her brother, Thomas Kiewlak; and nephews, Jordan Sager (wife, Angela (nee Paganucci) and Jeffrey Sager.

BRUNOZZI, Frances "Fran" (nee Morucci), 99, life-long resident of Glen Lyon, passed away October 6, 2024, at Tiffany Court in Kingston. Fran was the daughter of the late David and Mary (nee Casaccia) Morucci. She was raised in Glen Lyon and was a graduate of Newport Township High School with the Class of 1943. She was a member of Saint Denis Church and later Holy Spirit Parish (Saint Adalbert's Church). She was an active participant in many church activities and was self-employed as a hair dresser for many years. Fran was predeceased by her husband of 52 years, Richard BrunoZZi, and brothers, Albert, Arnold, and David Morucci. Fran is survived by her son, David BrunoZZi; niece and godchild, Karen Morucci; and close friend, Vicki Frace.

RISH, Gerard A. "Gerry," 63, life-long resident of Alden, passed away Monday, October 7, 2024, in Lehigh Valley Hospital of Hazleton. Gerry was the son of the late Joseph and Esther M. (nee McCoola) Rish. He was a graduate of John S. Fine High School with the Class of 1978, attended East Stroudsburg State College studying pre-Pharmacy, and graduated magna cum laude from Temple University School of Pharmacy in 1984.

He worked for Weis Markets Pharmacy, The Medicine Shop, and retired from the Berwick Hospital after a 40 year career as a Pharmacist.

BLOCKUS, Thelma E. (nee Littleford), 94, life-long resident of Sheatown, passed away September 10, 2024, in Geisinger Wyoming Valley Medical Center, Plains Township. Thelma was the daughter of the late Lee and Elizabeth (nee Gashowski) Littleford. She graduated from Newport Township High School with the Class of 1947. She worked for General Cigar of Nanticoke in her early years and later retired from RCA in Mountain Top. She was a member of Holy Child Church in Sheatown and later Saint Faustina Kowalska Parish of Nanticoke. Thelma was predeceased by her husband of 43 years, Henry Blockus; and brother, Lee Littleford. She is survived by her son, Bill Blockus of Sheatown; daughter, Sue Smolinski of Hunlock Creek; and sister, Elizabeth Matzoni.

DAUBER, Christopher J., 56, of Mount Carmel, formerly of Glen Lyon, passed away February 24, 2024, at Geisinger Medical Center in Danville. Christopher was the son of Teresa (nee Mitarnowski) Dauber and the late Larry Dauber. He was raised in Glen Lyon and Mountain Top; he graduated from Crestwood High School with the Class of 1985. He was a veteran of the US Navy and retired as a HVAC instructor from the State Correctional Institution at Mahanoy. Chris was a member of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish. In addition to his mother, Teresa, and wife of 17 years, Millie, Chris is survived by his daughter, Noel Dauber; sons, Brandon Dauber and Bryce Dauber; sister, Renee Dauber; and brothers, Jeff Dauber and Rich Dauber.

TOMASSACCI, Robert F., 68, of Glen Lyon, formerly of Shickshinny, passed away October 13, 2024, at the Geisinger South Hospital Wilkes-Barre. Robert was the son of the late Daniel and Lily (nee Williams) Tomassacci. He was a graduate of West Side Vo-Tech and was employed as a beautician at the Holiday Hair Salon. Robert is survived by his husband, Louis Mithelavage; and sisters, Lynn and Dawn Tomassacci.

MARCINCAVAGE, Margaret F. (nee Carver and Boone), 75, of Mountain Top, and formerly of Exeter and Glen Lyon, passed away on October 13, 2024, in Allied Hospice, Wilkes-Barre. Margaret was the daughter of the late Emil Carver and Henrietta Sudosky and adopted daughter of Esther and Ken Boone. She was raised in Exeter and graduated from Exeter High School; she was employed as a property and casualty insurance agent prior to retirement. Marge was predeceased by her husband of 53 years, Albin M. Marcincavage Sr.

ZAWATSKI, Bernard, 91, of Windsor, CN, formerly of Newport Township, passed away on August 16, 2024. Bernard was born in Glen Lyon and was the son of the late Stanley and Alice Zawatski. He was raised in Glen Lyon and graduated from Newport Township High School with the Class of 1950. Bernard was a US Air Force veteran. Besides his parents, he was predeceased by his sister, Rose Mary Zawatski.

ARMSTRONG, Margaret "Peggy," 92, of Alden, passed away October 22, 2024. Margaret was the daughter of the late Anna (nee Rokosz) Armstrong. Besides her mother, she was also predeceased by her brother, Joseph Armstrong. Peggy is survived by nephews Mark, Joseph of Sheatown, and Stephen of Slatington; nieces, Carole Tillie of Alden and Gail Doknovitch of Warrior Run; and sister-in-law, Donna Armstrong.

GUZENSKI, James "Juice," 95, of Alden, passed away October 22, 2024, at Lakewood Nursing and Rehabilitation Center. James was the son of the late Joseph F. and Eva (nee Tallia) Guzenski. He was raised in Alden and attended Newport Township High School. He served in the US Navy and was a veteran of the Korean War. He was a member of American Legion Post 350 and Saint Faustina Parish of Nanticoke. Besides his parents, Juice was predeceased by his wife, Anna (Nee Jakes) Guzenski; and brothers, Frank, William, and Joseph. He is survived by his sons, James and Mark.

PINCA, Rosemary Ann (nee Wasilko), 81, of West Chester/ Northampton, PA, formerly of Mocanaqua, died November, 2, 2024, at Twin Pines Medical Center. Rosemary was the daughter of the late Matthew "Mottay" and Rose (nee Vavrashek) Wasilko. She was born and raised in Mocanaqua and was a graduate of Newport Township High School with the Class of 1961. She also graduated from Wilkes-Barre General Hospital School of Nursing and pursued a career as a Registered Nurse at Sacred Heart Hospital in Chester PA; and also a second career

at Astra Zeneca. Rosemary was predeceased by her husband of 52 years, John Pinca; and brothers, Steve (a.k.a. "Mottay"), Frank, and Michael Wasilko. She is survived by her sons, John, Jeff, and Joseph.

WHITMIRE, Patricia (nee Roman), 85, of Dorrance Township, passed away at home on October 31, 2024. Patricia was the daughter of the late Adam and Sophie (nee Tafil) Roman. She was raised in Dorrance and graduated from Newport Township High School. She was employed by RCA of Mountain Top prior to retirement. Patricia was predeceased by her husband, Leonard Whitmire and son, Terrance. She is survived by her son, Leonard; daughter, Constance Rebarchak; and siblings, Florence Morgavero, Raymond Roman, Joseph Roman, and Marie Levine.

RUDAWSKI, Stephen M., 61, of Alden, passed away November 3, 2024, at Wilkes-Barre General Hospital. He was the son of the late Michael and Mary Rudawski. Stephen was raised in the Nanticoke Area and was a graduate of Bishop Hoban High School with the Class of 1981. He worked for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and retired after a 30-year career from White Haven Center. He was a member of Saint Faustina Kowalska Parish. Stephen is survived by his wife of 26 years, Lisa (nee Kapral) Rudawski; children, Stephen Jr. and Lauren; and sisters, Jackie "Tootsie" Alesczyk and Sandra Repak.

BONAR, Bernadine (nee Labeda), 88, of Alden, passed away at her home on November 7, 2024. Bernadine was born in Glen Lyon, the daughter of the late Steve and Margaret (nee Stefano) Labeda. Bernadine was raised in Glen Lyon and attended Newport Township schools. She was predeceased by her husband, Stanley Bonar and son, Ronald Bonar. Bernadine is survived by her daughters, Doreen Lohman, Maureen Shurmanek, and Cheryl Condo; sons, Duane Bonar, Steven Bonar, Michael Bonar; and brothers, Steven Labeda (wife, Cindy) and Daniel Labeda.

BRUNOZZI, Robert A. Sr., 87, of Bloomsburg, passed away September 2, 2024. Robert was the son of the late Aguinaldo and Frances (nee Horanzy) Brunozzi. He was raised in Glen Lyon and graduated from Newport Township High School with the Class of 1955, Penn State University, and Pennsylvania State Police Academy. His State Police career spanned 25 years working in numerous major criminal investigations throughout the State. After retirement, he and his wife, Jean, started and operated "The Brunozzi Investigation Agency." Robert was a member of the Glen Lyon Italian American Sporting Club. Robert was predeceased by his wife of 42 years Jean (nee Butchko) Brunozzi and brother, Richard Brunozzi.

BRUNOZZI, Jean Ann (nee Butchko), wife of Robert Brunozzi, passed away July 7, 2002. She was the daughter of the late John and Mary (nee Pierzehala) Butchko. She was raised in Glen Lyon and graduated from Newport Township High School with the Class of 1957. She was employed at the Glen Lyon Bank, Grants Department Store, and the Press Enterprise. In her honor after passing away, her husband Robert, and three sons, Ronald, Jeffrey, and Bert started the Jean Brunozzi Memorial Golf Tournament with assistance from the Italian Club. After 10 years over \$400,000.00 was raised and donated to help find the cause and cure for Alzheimer's Disease.

ENGLER, Rose Ann (nee Kivler), 85, of Nuangola, passed away on November 13, 2024. Rose Ann was born in Wanamie on April 21, 1939; she was the daughter of the late Joseph Kivler and Elsie (nee Nagel) Kivler. She was raised in Wanamie and attended Newport Township schools. She is survived by her husband of 66 years, Clarence Engler; and children, Tammy Heich, Clarence Engler Jr., JoAnn Engler, and Donna Fischer; and sister, Donna Kivler.

RINEHIMER, Arthur C., 93, of Bloomsburg, formerly of Dorrance Township, passed away October 22, 2024, at the Gardens in Orangeville. Arthur was born in Dorrance Township and he was the son of the late George and Edith (nee Stein) Rinehimer. He was raised in Dorrance and graduated from Newport Township High School with the Class of 1949. He was a US Navy veteran serving from 1955 to 1957 during the Korean War. Thereafter, he worked the family dairy farm his entire life. Arthur was a member of Lime Ridge New Hope Church, Bloomsburg, and Saint James Evangelical Church, Hobbie. Arthur is survived by his wife, Margaret D. Rinehimer (nee Summers); brother, Floyd Rinehimer, and sister, Lois Yeager of Hobbie.

RINEHIMER, Nancy E., 86, life-long resident of Slocum Township, passed away on November 17, 2024 at her home. Nancy was the daughter of the late Carlton and Madge (nee Fairchild) Rinehimer. She was raised in Slocum and graduated from Newport Township High School with the Class of 1955. She earned a degree as a registered nurse and retired from Jefferson Hospital in Philadelphia. She is survived by her brother, Carlton Rinehimer of Allentown and caregiver, Austin Douglas.

EVAN, Marilyn J. (nee McGahagan), 84, of Iselin, New Jersey, formerly of Glen Lyon, passed away November 16, 2024. Marilyn was the daughter of the late Nicholas and Anna (nee Klish) McGahagan. She was raised in Glen Lyon and graduated from Newport Township High School with the Class of 1958. Besides her parents, Marilyn was predeceased by her brothers, David and Paul. She is survived by her husband, Theodore J. Evan of Iselin, a graduate of Newport High School, Class of 1959, and children, Karen Velasquez, Cheryl Capriotti, and Sean Evan.

McCORMACK, Susan Mary (nee Izbicki), 67, of Elkhorn, NE, formerly of Newport Township, passed away November 14, 2024. She was the daughter of the late Anthony and Marguerite (nee Cherrie) Izbicki. She was raised in Glen Lyon and graduated from John S. Fine High School with the Class of 1974. She is survived by her husband, Kevin McCormack; and brothers, Tom Izbicki and Tony Izbicki.

KROPIEWNICKI, Melania (nee Yaniga), 94, of Sheatown, Newport Township, passed away November 22, 2024 in Geisinger Medical Center. Melania was the daughter of the late Stanislaw and Stefania (nee Pawlusz) Yaniga. She was raised in Wanamie and graduated from Newport Township High School with the Class of 1948. Melania was predeceased by her husband of 40 years, John F. Kropiewnicki; brothers, Albin, Edward, Alex, and Chester Yaniga; and sister, Stasia Dutzar. She is survived by her sons, John (Deborah), Allen, and Jamie (Christine) Kropiewnicki.

MACK, Sheila J. (nee Aistrope), 88, of Glen Lyon, formerly of England, passed away November 23, 2024 at the Lakewood Rehabilitation and Healthcare Center in Sheatown. Sheila was born in Oxford, the daughter of the late Alfred and Beatrice (nee Light) Aistrope. She made her home in Glen Lyon after she met her husband, Chester, while he was serving in the US military. Sheila was predeceased by her husband, Chester; and sister, Audrey Spradley. She is survived by her daughter, Denise Whittaker (James); and sons, Steven and Chester (Karen) Mack of Glen Lyon.

NAMOWICZ, Irene Lydia "Nana," 96, of Glen Lyon, passed away on December 5, 2024. Irene was the daughter of the late Walter and Helen (nee Ceglarski) Kowalski. She was raised in Mocanaqua and attended Shickshinny High School. She was employed by the Duplan Silk Mill of Berwick and Mara Manufacturing of Nanticoke. Irene was predeceased by her husband, Charles Edward Namowicz; and son, Chief Petty Officer Peter Namowicz. She is survived by her daughter, Barbara Paganucci and son-in-law Liborio with whom she resided and were her care-givers; and son, David Namowicz (Roseann).

SHEMANSKI, Jacquelyn (nee Bigos), 87, of Dahlonga, GA, formerly of Newport Township, passed away November 5, 2024. Jacquelyn was born in Glen Lyon on January 8, 1937. She was the daughter of the late Frank and Stasia (Zaborowski) Bigos. She was raised in Glen Lyon and graduated from Newport Township High School with the Class of 1954 and Kean College in New Jersey with a B.A. and M.A. in Education. She taught at Woodbridge schools before retiring after 22 years. Jacquelyn is survived by her husband of 68 years, Joseph Shemanski; daughter, Cynthia Blank; son, Joseph; sisters, Christine Drugotch and Jean Baker; and brother, Frank.




John Kashatus Receives Recognition

Recently John Kashatus, a Nanticoke resident born and raised in Glen Lyon, was presented an award, pictured left, by Township Commissioner John Zyla. Shown in the photo above are wife Sally Stapinski Kashatus, recipient John Kashatus, Commissioner Zyla, and son Ken Kashatus.

John, a retired teacher and coach, is recognized for his service to the Newport Township Community and beyond through his stories and well-researched articles

which have appeared in this Newsletter. These articles have contributed to preserving the history of Newport Township and the value of the community he has never forgotten.

John was among several recipients of the award this past Spring, but was unable to attend the presentation. Thankfully an opportunity arose for Commissioner Zyla to make the presentation on behalf of the Board in October. John has authored or co-authored at least 18 articles which have appeared in this Newsletter over the past 20 years. These articles document the exploits of local individuals and organizations, his own childhood experiences, forgotten locations, and a way of life that has slowly disappeared with the demise of the mining industry. We look forward to his next article! Congratulations John!



Joseph J. Reilly
President

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Recently Editors Heidi and Paul Jarecki received the above plaques from Neighborhoods USA, a national non-profit organization committed to building and strengthening neighborhood organizations. *The Newport Township Community News* was recognized in both online and print formats. The Newsletter is truly a collaborative effort, and the NTCO hopes it will continue far into the future. Thank you everyone for your support!



On December 16, members of the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 539 of Glen Lyon gathered for their Christmas Party at the Legion Home on Newport Street. The Unit also welcomed four new members with an initiation ceremony with President Barb Meyers presiding. The Unit meets on the third Monday of the month.

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The History of Kirmar Park

Part XII: November 1916-February 1917

By Heidi Jarecki ~ Kirmar Park, originally known as Power House Grove, was once situated between Alden and Wanamie on West Kirmar Avenue in Newport Township. It began operating in 1896 and was a popular destination for picnics, tennis matches, baseball games, dances, private parties, plays and minstrels, band concerts, and basketball games. At various times it also featured a bowling alley, a roller-skating rink and a race track. People came from all over Northeastern Pennsylvania to attend events. It was affiliated with the People's Street Railway, a trolley system that ran between Glen Lyon and Nanticoke. William Warne who was Superintendent of the People's Railway, also served as manager of the Park. New features were added each year. This article continues the story of the Park which began in the Spring 2022 issue of the *Newport Township Community News*.

The Pennsylvania State Basketball League which was formed in 1914-1915 was a semiprofessional league and would pit the Carbondale Pioneers, Wilkes-Barre Barons, Nanticoke Nans, Pittston, Hazleton Mountaineers, Plymouth, Scranton Miners and the Freeland North Siders against each other. Most games featured a second game at halftime and were followed by dancing. The Nanticoke Nans played their home games at Kirmar Park and had a large enthusiastic fan base. The pavilion accommodated 1700 people. In addition to League games, local amateur and high school teams also used the facility. The court was surrounded with a cage and the baskets had glass backings. Coached by Lew Wachter, members of the Nans for the 1916-1917 season were: Joe Evers, Murray Simberg, Dick Leary, Chief Muller, Jake Schimmel, Dave Beaver and Jake Beaver (who were twins and students at Columbia University), Ray Schechterly, John Bryant, David Jones, Walter Keating, and Joe Johnson. They ranged in age from 19 to 31. The season opener brought Pittston to Kirmar on October 27. The Nans were victorious 26-17.

On November 2, 1916, the Scranton team traveled to Kirmar Park. The Nans won the game but were forced to forfeit because of a protest by the Scranton captain who argued that Beaver (it could not be determined which of the twins was in violation) had not been registered the required number of seven days. President of the League Byron Lewis awarded the win to Scranton. Coach Lew Wachter was taken to Nanticoke State Hospital and underwent surgery for appendicitis on Sunday November 5. The following day, the Nans played Pittston at the Pittston Armory. As reported in the *Wilkes-Barre Record*, "Wachter the manager of the Nanticoke aggregation promises the fans of this city that the lineup he will put in the contest...is one which will make any team go the limit for a win." The game resulted in a win for the Nans 26-23; however, it was described as one of the roughest games ever seen in this section. The *Times Leader* reported, "As the result of roughness, Chief Muller and Keating received broken noses. Muller got his bump right after the game started, but after having it treated he stayed in and tallied four field goals. Keating got his late in the first half and was forced to retire in favor of Schimmel."

The Presidential Election was held on November 7, 1916. Incumbent Democratic President Woodrow Wilson narrowly defeated former associate justice of the Supreme Court Charles Evans Hughes, the Republican candidate. The campaign took place against a background dominated by war — the Mexican Revolution and World War I. Wilson's campaign used the popular slogans "He kept us out of war" and "America First" to appeal to those voters who wanted to avoid a war in Europe or with Mexico. Wilson lost in Pennsylvania. His Vice

President was Thomas Marshall.

The Wilkes-Barre team came to play at Kirmar on Thursday, November 9. Before the game the amateur Nanticoke Jaspers defeated the Nanticoke All-Stars by the score of 28 to 13. Nanticoke defeated Wilkes-Barre in a hard-fought game by the score of 22-21. "The Nans played an uphill game, coming from behind and winning out in the final period. The contest was witnessed by a monster crowd, many of whom were from Wilkes-Barre. Both teams were out for blood and the players constantly were banging together with the old give and take stuff that keeps a crowd wild. Nobody flinched and the action was so speedy that when the timekeeper's whistle announced the end of the battle every athlete in the cage was ready to go to the mat. The Barons all played good ball and it was a very hard game to lose."

On Friday November 10, Newport High School played a game against the Lithuanian Knights, an amateur team from Edwardsville at Kirmar. *The Evening News* reported: "The local boys seem to be in the best of condition for tonight's affray and are confident of taking the measure of the visitors. Under the coaching of Peter Turik, the red and blue (yes, red and blue!) have developed into a wonderful combination and a good season is in prospect. Between halves the local high school reserves will play the Lithuanian reserves, and this contest alone gives promise of being interesting. The high school orchestra will be on hand and will furnish music for dancing immediately after the game. Play will start at 8 o'clock." The outcomes of the games could not be found.

On Monday November 13, "a large number of Glen Lyon people attended the dance of Miss Mary Weir at Kirmar Park." Mary Weir of Wilkes-Barre was a well-known dance instructor in the Wyoming Valley. It was noted that dancing continued to be popular in the Township, "especially at Glen Lyon and is evident by the fact of the coming events. Tonight (November 14) the Newport Dancing Club will hold a carnation dance at Stegmaier's Hall at which time a very large attendance is expected. The social function that is attracting attention is that which will take place on Saturday evening. At this time the Glen Lyon Athletic Club, composed of about thirty-five members, will hold their first dance in Stegmaier's Hall, Glen Lyon. A large advance sale of tickets assures the members of a record-breaking attendance for dances held in the lower end town." Stegmaier's Hall dated back to 1908 and was a popular venue. Its location could not be determined at this writing.

On Wednesday November 15, Nanticoke traveled to Hazleton. The game was tied at the end of regulation and an "extra session" was played to determine the winner. Hazleton pulled out the victory with the score of 19-17. The next night Nanticoke hosted Freeland at Kirmar. The *Times Leader* reported: "The visitors have several new players and are putting up a splendid article of ball at the present time. Nanticoke is determined to keep up their winning streak." A report of the game in the *Times Leader* stated: "With the Beaver brothers of Columbia University making their bow to the State League and bowing to good advantage, Nanticoke last night trounced Freeland at Kirmar Park by the score of 39 to 12. D. Beaver made his bow thirty seconds after play was started by scoring a pretty field goal. The Beavers added pep to the Nannies' play and created a sensation. With two and one-half minutes to go, Freeland called time out and held a council of war to devise ways and means of scoring at least one field goal. Muller glued on to the ball when the whistle sounded again and although Freeland played hammer and tongs in an effort to score, the Nannies held possession of the sphere and scored four field goals before time was called."

On Monday evening, November 20, another dance conducted by Mary Weir at Kirmar was largely attended and "a good time was reported by all. The dancers found much pleasure in the "Paul Jones" which was encored repeatedly. The music was furnished by Kroll's Orchestra." The Paul Jones originated in 1910 and is a partner-changing technique in which dancers form a circle and perform a grand right and left at a signal. When the signal is given again, each man resumes dancing with the woman opposite him.

An article appeared in the *Times Leader* on November 23 announcing the construction of a resort at Hunlock's Creek. The Shelley Brothers and a Mr. Keller of Wilkes-Barre leased several acres and constructed dams on the creek to provide swimming facilities. They planned a dancing pavilion on the site. "The place will be electrically lighted and the power will be made by water power, there being a natural fall at this place that will provide sufficient power for the purpose." The resort was scheduled to be opened for the summer season in 1917. No doubt it gave Kirmar Park some competition.



Nanticoke Nans Player Profile

Otto "Jake" Schimmel

Otto Gustav "Jake" Schimmel was born on September 19, 1894 in Nanticoke. His parents were Adolph and Marie Sack Schimmel. Both Adolph and Marie were born in Germany. They moved to Nanticoke in 1881 and lived at 220 East Ridge Street. Adolph was employed as a coal miner. They were the parents of 12 children. Adolph passed away in 1934 at age 75 and Marie passed away in 1944 at age 80.

Jake displayed athletic ability in his teens and played center for the amateur Nanticoke Maroons. In 1914, Nanticoke formed a semi-professional team in the Pennsylvania State League, and Jake was selected to play guard. Jake and Ray Schechterly were two native players for the Nans and were dubbed the "Pride of Nanticoke." Jake remained with the team until 1921. He then played a few games for Providence, a section of Scranton and was traded to Plymouth in December, 1921. As reported in the *Times Leader*, "Two former stars of the Nans, Coopey and Schimmel will wear a Plymouth uniform and will make their presence known when the referee blows his whistle at 8:45 o'clock this evening." After playing a few games for Plymouth, Jake's professional career came to an end in 1922. He then became co-owner of the Nanticoke franchise and games were played at the Nanticoke Armory. According to www.ProBasketballencyclopedia.com, Jake played seven seasons of semi-pro basketball. The following statistics were compiled from six of those seven seasons: Total games 135; Field goals made 62; Foul tries made 107; Total points 231.

AinsworthSports.com ranks Jake 383rd of 967 top ranked professional basketball players of all-time from Pennsylvania. Wilt Chamberlain occupies the top spot. In 1916-1917, Jake's height was listed as 5'10" and his weight as 160 pounds. In 1919, he was described as "a [player] who gained all his knowledge in the amateur ranks hereabouts. He is a good guard. He scores consistently and is a valuable man."

At his death in March 1955 at age 60, Jake was living in Hanover Township and was employed as section foreman at the Buttonwood Colliery. He married Pearl Davis of Nanticoke and they had a daughter, Olive and a son, Albert.

Jake is interred in the Hanover Green Cemetery.

On Thursday November 23, Hazleton came to town and Nanticoke "played much the better ball and deserved to win. Muller tallied six field goals while Leary managed to cage a quartet of double-deckers. The score was 33 to 20. Schechterly played a good game for the Nannies." The following evening, Newport High School had no trouble against Parsons High School at Kirmar. As reported in the *Wilkes-Barre Record*, "The final score was 41 to 7 and Smith and Rogowicz featured for the local school. The guards Kellar and Kruk played a brilliant defensive game and aided materially in the team's scoring. Between halves, the Wanamie Central (Newport) High School Scrubs lost to the fast Breslau team by the score of 14 to 7. This game was more interesting than the big game but proved disastrous to the local school."

On Thanksgiving evening, November 30, Plymouth and Nanticoke played a game at Kirmar, with the usual dancing following the game. Nanticoke won 21 to 19. "It was Schimmel's work in the last four minutes of play that made a Nanticoke victory possible. The game was attended by approximately 1900 fans, a delegation of nearly 600 coming from Plymouth." December 1 saw two games, the West Pittston High School team took on Newport High School and were defeated 29 to 21. "One of the largest crowds of the season was on hand and cheered continually for the favorites. Between halves, the Central high school reserves defeated the Shickshinny high school team by the score of 10 to 9." Smith and Rogowicz featured once again for Newport.

On Monday December 4, the following was reported in the *Wilkes-Barre Record*: "Basket ball [sic] has seized the township like a plague and the followers and players of this popular sport are desirous of forming a basket ball [sic] league which would comprise a team from Glen Lyon, Wanamie, Alden, and Sheatown. It is understood that a team has been formed in the first two mentioned towns and the other two are on the verge of organizing." A Newport high school girls team was being organized with Ruth Kelly as coach. Ruth played college basketball while attending Bloomsburg State Normal School. Girls' basketball at that time was different from boys': the girls played a half-court game with three forwards and three guards on each side who could not cross the center line, could have only two dribbles, and had three seconds to pass or shoot the ball.

Attendance at Mary Weir's dances at Kirmar had begun slipping and it was announced that they would be discontinued if improvement wasn't made. On December 4, the *Wilkes-Barre Record* reported: "These dances are the most sociable affairs that have ever taken place at the local park and the numerous dancers should turn out in large numbers this evening in order that this social function may continue during the winter months."

On Tuesday December 5, Nanticoke traveled to Carbondale, where they lost 28 to 21. It was announced that Joe Evers of Troy NY, a brother of Johnny Evers, captain of the Boston Braves, would make his State League debut for Nanticoke in this game.

On December 5 or 6, two amateur games were played at Kirmar, the Nanticoke Jaspers and the Wilkes-Barre All-Stars with the Jaspers winning 60 to 10, and the Nanticoke Colgates versus the Rex Five, with the Colgates winning 12 to 8.

On Thursday December 7, Carbondale came to Kirmar and lost to Nanticoke, 29 to 21. As reported, "Almost 1,900 basket ball [sic] fans packed into every available foot of space in Kirmar Park saw Carbondale suffer its second defeat of the season at the hands of Nanticoke by the score of 29 to 27. Nanticoke is the only team in the State League to down Carbondale away from home." Muller scored 13 points, and Leary and Evers each scored 5 for Nanticoke. Dave Beaver and Schimmel combined for 6. At this point in the season, Carbondale was in first place, Wilkes-Barre in second, and Nanticoke in third.

Friday December 8 saw a game between Newport High and Kingston High at Kirmar. As reported in the *Evening News*: "Kingston High School was no match for the quintet of the Wanamie Central High School, who defeated them. The Newport Township team kept the visitors from scoring a field goal which makes [this] the third shutout of the season. Between halves the Sophomore class of the Nanticoke High school defeated the reserve team of the Wanamie High school by the score of 22 to 8."

As reported in the *Wilkes-Barre Semi-Weekly Record*, "The members of the Freeland basket ball [sic] team, while returning home in an automobile after the game at Pittston last night (December 11), had a narrow escape from serious injury at Rita, on top of the mountain near Penobscot. In driving along the new state road, the driver turned into an old abandoned road and the machine landed in a deep ditch alongside of the Central Railroad of New Jersey tracks. One wheel of the machine was torn off and all of the occupants were thrown out and considerably bruised. A Jersey Central engine happened along at the same time and took the ball players to White Haven. The damaged automobile was left in the ditch and will be taken to Freeland today." The Freeland franchise was in last place and was in trouble because of poor patronage and plain hard luck. The manager received an offer of \$500.00 from Bethlehem basketball enthusiasts who were anxious to break into the League. Ultimately the North Siders would later drop out of the league on February 11, 1917.

On Wednesday December 13, the Nans played an exhibition game at Tamaqua. That same evening, the Nanticoke Jaspers defeated the Duryea Ex-High School team at Kirmar by the score of 41 to 12. A second game was played between amateur teams Plymouth Nationals and Nanticoke Orioles, with a win for the Nationals. The following evening, Pittston came to Kirmar Park. Murry Simberg played his first game with the Nans and was described as "very fast and an incredibly good shot." Pittston defeated Nanticoke 19 to 17. "The surprise of the league so far was the showing of Pittston last night at Kirmar Park. There was no doubt as to which was the better team. The score shows that." Between

Nanticoke Nans Player Profile

Joe Evers



Joseph Francis Evers was born September 10, 1891 in Troy, NY which is near Albany. His parents were John and Ellen Evers. The family consisted of three sons, John, Joseph, William, and a daughter Mary. Joe gained fame as an athlete with St. Joseph's Club in Troy and played baseball with the Powers Nine, one of the best amateur teams in that area and with Richmond VA in the Piedmont League. He played second base with the practice team of the New York Giants and appeared in one major league game in 1913 as a pinch runner. He moved to Terre Haute, IN of the Three Eye League and became manager. His brother Johnny gained baseball fame with the Chicago Cubs as the Tinker-to-Evers-to Chance trio who perfected the double play.

Joe played professional basketball with Troy and Gloversville in the New York State League. He played one season (1916-1917) with the Nanticoke Nans in 27 games as a forward. He stood 5'9" and weighed 136 pounds. That year he averaged 4.1 points per game.

Joe served in the U.S. Navy during World War I from 1917-1918. He later went into business with his brother John and together they managed the Johnny Evers Company Albany Sporting Goods Store. Joe was also one of the best bowlers in Troy and was a member of several bowling leagues.

On October 11, 1920, Joe married Isabelle Maxwell and they had two daughters, Peggy Ann and Kathryn, and a son Joseph. Joe passed away at age 57 on January 4, 1949. He is interred in St. Agnes Cemetery in Menands, NY.

halves, the West Nanticoke High School Girls team went up against Plymouth High School Girls.

The Plymouth Nationals defeated the Keystone A.C. of Nanticoke by the score of 19 to 16 at Kirmar Park on December 17. On Tuesday, December 19, the Plymouth Feds played the Nanticoke Colgates. Scranton returned for a League game with the Nans on Thursday December 21. "Wachter has his men at the park daily practicing in order to develop some system of team play." The Nans won, 20 to 13. "The contest was rough, the Miners committing 34 fouls, while the Nannies were guilty of 18."

Newport High School boys decided to set up an inter-class league with games to be played at Kirmar Park. As reported in the *Times Leader*, "The schedule calls for fifteen games, the first of which will be played on Wednesday afternoon (December 20). A small admission fee will be charged. The captains of each team are members of the high school varsity team." In the first round of play, the Seniors defeated the Sophomores with a score of 15 to 6, and the Juniors defeated the Freshmen, 18 to 10.

On Friday December 22, St. John's High School in Pittston played its first game against Newport at Kirmar. "The high school orchestra will play for dancing after the game. Between halves, the Wanamie Central High school Reserves will play the junior class of the Nanticoke High school."

Following a brief break for Christmas, playing resumed on Wednesday December 27 with a game between the Rolling Mill Hill Juniors and the Nanticoke Colgates. The next night saw a League game between Nanticoke and Wilkes-Barre. "Dancing is becoming popular after the games and all the women stay for a few minutes and waltz around the floor, escorted by a partner." The *Wilkes-Barre Record* reported, "Manager Wechter assured us that he expects both Dave and Jake Beaver to be at the park tonight. When these two boys played together here on their last appearance they made a decided hit with the fans." The Nans won, 31 to 17.

The final game of 1916 at Kirmar Park was on Friday, December 29 between Newport High School and Bloomsburg State Normal School. "The visiting quintet is composed of two members of Bloomsburg Normal School varsity team, namely Arthur Morgan and L. Hodder. The rest of the quintet is composed of fast men. Between halves the Glen Lyon quintet will play a fast aggregation from East End."

A new year dawned on Monday January 1, 1917. On the front pages of local papers was coverage of the war in Europe. On that day, British troopship Ivernia was torpedoed and sunk in the Mediterranean Sea by German submarine SM UB-47, with the loss of 125 lives. A week later, the German Kaiser Wilhelm made a decision that would ultimately bring the United States into World War I, directing that the German Imperial Navy begin unrestricted submarine warfare on all ships traveling to or from the British Isles. He took the most remarkable view that U-boat warfare was a purely military matter. On January 16, Arthur Zimmermann, State Secretary for Foreign Affairs for the German Empire, sent a coded telegram (which would be known as The Zimmermann Telegram) to Heinrich von Eckardt, German ambassador to Mexico, with instructions to propose to Mexico that the country and Germany make war

together and make peace together. Generous financial support to Mexico was promised and an understanding that Mexico would reclaim its "lost" territory in Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona. The very next day, British intelligence monitoring German telegraph communications intercepted a coded telegram and uncovered evidence of Germany's plans to spread World War I to North America. These events made it increasingly difficult for the United States to remain neutral.

Meanwhile, back at Kirmar Park on Tuesday, January 2, two games were played in the Nanticoke City League which opened on December 26, with the Follies and the Keystones being victorious. The losing teams were the Indians and the All-Stars. Each team would play two games per week, one at the Falcon Hall in Nanticoke and one at Kirmar Park. The following afternoon, the Interclass League of Newport High played two games, with the Sophomores beating the Juniors, and the Freshmen beating the Seniors.

The Nans played two away games before returning to Kirmar for a game against Freeland on Thursday January 4. Between halves, the girls' team of West Nanticoke High School played the Dorranceton High School girls. Dancing followed the games. The Nans defeated Freeland by a score of 47 to 22 with an estimated attendance of 1,100. Joe Evers was described as "the fastest player in the circuit, a youth who handles the ball as a veteran. He is a base ball [sic] player as well and will cavort in the Central League next summer. He tried out once upon a time with the Wilkes-Barre base ball [sic] team."

On Monday January 8, the Nanticoke Jaspers defeated the Plymouth Independents at Kirmar by the score of 27 to 20. The following evening, two City League games were played and the Indians and Keystones were victorious.

In the evening of Wednesday January 10, Nans Coach Lew Wachter entertained members of the York State League who were playing in the State circuit with a dance. "The evening was one of jollity throughout. Of course there were patrons and patronesses, and this added to the pleasure of the evening. The hall was neatly decorated and this should be left up in order that the patrons of the basket ball [sic] team may judge the handiwork of Warne/Wachter & Co. All left the hall at a late hour, satisfied that they had spent one of the most enjoyable evenings of their lives."

The following night, Hazleton came to town for a League game. At the half, West Nanticoke High girls team was to play the White Haven High girls. An experiment was proposed by which the first half of the game would be played by girls rules and the second half would be played using boys rules. The game was cancelled because the White Haven team refused to play using boys rules. Nanticoke beat Hazleton by a score of 32 to 21. The dance from the night before created slippery conditions on the floor, causing multiple fouls. Wyoming Valley was going through a cold snap with temperatures in the single digits. The weather failed to keep fans away. Many residents enjoyed ice skating at Fairchild's Pond on Alden Mountain and at "Stumpy Lake," located between Glen Lyon and Lee.

Mention was made of the Newport Collegians, a team that played most of their games away. "Some good games are expected from this bunch." Friday night brought Newport High School a game with Plymouth High

School. Newport was on a streak winning 8 straight games. Between halves, the Newport Reserve team played the Shickshinny High School team. Newport kept their streak alive with a score of 10 to 7.

Interclass league games which should have been played on January 10 were postponed until Monday January 15. The Seniors defeated the Juniors, 14 to 11, and the second game between the Sophomores and Freshmen was postponed. A double header of the City League was played at Kirmar on Tuesday January 16. The Follies beat the All-Stars and the Keystones beat the Indians. The Nans played two games away, Freeland and Carbondale, before returning to Kirmar, where they played Plymouth on Thursday January 18. The Nans notched another victory, 30 to 28. As reported, "Plymouth had all kinds of luck and although they did not have an earned field goal they managed to score nine of the luckiest shots ever seen at Kirmar Park. In the second half Plymouth was compelled to foul frequently in their endeavor to recover the ball from the Nans." At the half the Nanticoke Orioles defeated Edwardsville by a score of 23 to 3.

The high school team would face Ashley High School on Friday January 19. They would win their tenth game, 19 to 13. "A large delegation of students from Ashley attended." It was noted that the Newport High School girls team had yet to schedule a game. The same evening, two Intercity games were also played. On Monday January 22, the Nanticoke Colgates defeated the Plymouth Garnets. Additional games in the Intercity League were played on Tuesday January 23. The following evening the Larksville Ramblers played the Nanticoke Jaspers. The Jaspers won an easy victory with the score of 45 to 3. Carbondale which was in first place in the State League came to Kirmar on Thursday, January 25. Before the League game, the Jaspers won again 32 to 16 against the Plymouth Independents. As reported, "Carbondale's ability to toss in field goals in rapid succession in the second half gave them the fourteenth straight victory last night at Kirmar Park when Nanticoke was humbled by the score of 34 to 25. Nanticoke played good ball in the first period, but after half time seemed unable to stop the champions from scoring."

Monday night, January 29 saw a game between the Plymouth Garnets and the Nanticoke Colgates. At this point in the season, Nanticoke and Pittston of the State League were tied for third place and would duke it out on Thursday February 1. It was speculated that David Jones, a new player who had been signed the week before, might break into this game. Jones "put up a good exhibition of basket ball [sic] at Shamokin and Tamaqua." Nanticoke won, 36 to 35. "The game was one of the best ever witnessed at Kirmar." Tensions ran high. Lush, the referee, "ended his career in the State League at the conclusion of the game. He was considerable [sic] off on fouls and this necessarily made the fans a bit peeved. After the game Lush hit a Nanticoke fan for passing an unfavorable remark. The escort of the Township police was called upon to take him to a place of safety." On Friday February 2, Nanticoke played away at Plymouth.

The Ashley High School scrub team played the Newport High scrub team at Kirmar on February 2. The following evening the Nanticoke Colgates accepted a game with the Nanticoke Independents. Two games in the City League were played on Tuesday February 6, the Keystones versus the Indians and the Follies against the All-Stars. Two nights later, Scranton traveled to Kirmar Park for a State League game. For the Nans, "Simberg and Evers will play at forward with Muller and D. Beaver pairing at guard, while Dick Leary will be the pivot man around whom all plays centre. [sic]" The Nanticoke Jaspers played the Nanticoke Laborers in an amateur game. The Nans were victorious, 31 to 21. Nanticoke traveled to Wilkes-Barre on Saturday, February 10 and squeezed out a win, 28 to 27.

On Monday, February 12, the Newport High School team went up against Hanover Township High School team at Kirmar. Newport came away with a win, 20 to 14. "A large delegation of students from both schools witnessed the game." Two Intercity Leagues games were played on Tuesday, February 13 with the All-Stars defeating the Keystones, and the Follies defeating the Indians. The following evening, the Nanticoke Orioles accepted a game with the Plymouth Monarchs. On Thursday February 15, between halves of the Wilkes-Barre-Nanticoke game at Kirmar, a team from Myrtle's Confectionary Store battled a quintet from Jack Thomas' Pool Room and Cigar Store. Nanticoke was victorious, 28 to 17, as was Myrtle's, 21 to 18. "Kirmar Park was crowded to the girders and the noise was deafening toward the end when Nanticoke

pulled away after the score was 22 to 17 in their favor with seven minutes to go." Another comment was: "There were no alibis as to Wilkes-Barre's defeat at Kirmar Park. Nanticoke was the better team and the score shows it. Their team work in the second half was splendid and Simberg's recovery of the ball from scrimmages was a shining feature." On Wednesday February 21, Dan's quintet defeated Adam's quintet by the score of 28 to 1. The only point for Adam's was a free throw. On Thursday February 22, the Nans played an exhibition game against the Vincome team of Philadelphia at Kirmar. Freeland had dropped out of the League on February 11, and this was a substitute game. This was the first exhibition game at Kirmar that season "and inasmuch as the day is a holiday (Washington's Birthday) a large attendance should be on hand and encourage the local boys." Between halves, the annual contest between the Susquehanna Lumber Company and the Lecher Hardware Store took place. Susquehanna was victorious, 18 to 8. Nanticoke beat Vincome by the score of 28 to 13. "A big crowd saw Nanticoke take an easy victory from the Vincome team of Philadelphia last night at Kirmar. Nanticoke used "Pete" Jones, its utility man, for the first time."

On February 24, the Nanticoke Colgates played the Shawnee Orioles at Kirmar. On Wednesday, February 28, two Intercity League games were played between the Keystones and the Indians, and the Follies versus the All-Stars. "These games promise to be very interesting as all teams are going at a fast clip and are out to win the pennant." The Keystones and the Follies were the winners.

The Colgates and the Pittston Juniors played a three-game series, the first of which was played at Kirmar, with the Colgates winning, 33 to 7. The second game was played at Pittston on February 28, the Colgates winning that game too, 38 to 14. On the roster for the Colgates were: Janowski, Jashunski, Donahue, Sullivan, and Graboske, probable misspellings acknowledged.

The next League game at Kirmar would be against Hazleton on Thursday March 1. The first game of a series between the Nanticoke Orioles and the Nanticoke Jaspers who were playing for the first-class championship of Nanticoke was also scheduled that same night. "The game should be hummer." This would be Hazleton's final appearance at Kirmar for the season. As reported in the *Times Leader*, "The local team and the fans of this town are particularly anxious that the Nans finish in second place. This may be accomplished if the fans turn out and support the team with a better attendance that it has been receiving thus far this season." The Nans "had an easy time of it in defeating Hazleton last night at Kirmar and won by the score of 33 to 13. Joe Evers had a big night against the dangerous Pfaff. The only three baskets that Hazleton got were the luckiest that have been seen at Kirmar this season." The Jaspers won the first game in their series, 35 to 4.

On Friday March 2, Newport High School would oppose the Wyoming Seminary reserve team. The results of this game could not be found.

Readers may recall that in the previous article on the History of Kirmar Park in the Fall 2024 *Newport Township Community News*, mention was made about local recruitment efforts by the United States Army. The Mexican Revolution (1910-1920) caused a crisis when Revolutionary Leader Pancho Villa raided a town in New Mexico in March of 1916 and 16 Americans were killed. President Wilson responded by ordering an increased military presence at the border. Among that military presence was Battery C of the Third Field Artillery of Pennsylvania, which included several Newport Township residents. The crisis was resolved by diplomatic means and U.S. troops withdrew in February 1917.

A "Patriotic Meeting" was held on Friday evening March 2. As reported in the *Times Leader*: "Never before was there so much interest in a public meeting as that which took place last evening at the borough (Nanticoke would not become a third-class city until 1926) building on West Main Street, when the citizens of Nanticoke and Newport Township met to further plans for the reception, parade, and banquet which will be given the members of Battery C, Third Pennsylvania Field Artillery upon their return from the Mexican border." Fundraising for the event would include an exhibition game at Kirmar Park, collections in the schools, and benefit performances in the movie theaters in Nanticoke and Glen Lyon.

To be continued.....

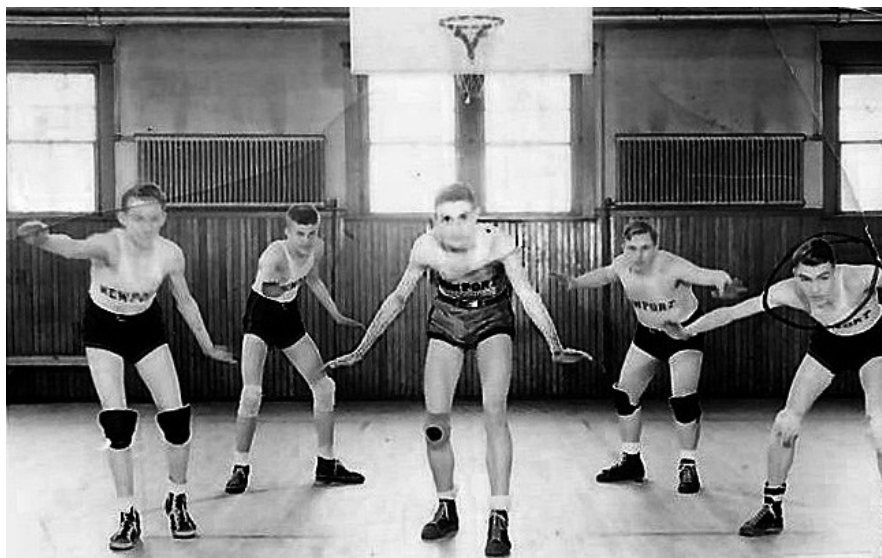
Sources: *The Wilkes-Barre Times Leader*; *The Wilkes-Barre Record*; *The Evening News*; *The Wilkes-Barre Semi-Weekly Record*; *newspapers.com*; *ancestry.com*; *Wikipedia.com*; *The Pro-Basketball Encyclopedia.com*; *AinsworthSports.com*; various websites.



Standing: Coach Clem Rogowicz, Phil Makara, Bernard Rasavage, Bernard Swiencki, Chester Smocharski, John Riordan, Walter Gorney, Zig Kishel, Ass't Coach Arthur Jenkins, Faculty Manager Stephen Lerda. *Seated:* Andrew Harcharik, Edgar Womelsdorf, Albin Bel-eski, Louis Ravin, Thomas Sugalski.

Newport Township High School 1941-42 Basketball Team

By Paul Jarecki ~The 1941-1942 season was a good one for the Nutcrackers, ending with a record of 14-3. The big pre-season contest was the Keith Jeffries Memorial Game, which pitted the 1936 Newport Township State Championship Team against the 1942 version of the squad. The champs reigned once again, knocking off the 1942 team, 50-26. In the preseason, the team had a record of 5-3. Once they headed into the regular season, it was a different story. They ended the first half undefeated and in first place in the Wyoming Valley Conference. A mid-season contest with the Swoyersville Sailors saw Newport win 35-33 with the proceeds going to the Infantile Paralysis Fund. In the second half of the season, Newport lost two games, to Kingston and Berwick. Berwick, the second-half champion eliminated Newport 40-32 in the playoff game at the Kingston High School Gym and Newport's season came to an end. Berwick would advance and beat Pottsville 30-28. They would lose to the eventual state champion Lower Merion 30-25 in the semifinals.



NON LEAGUE GAMES

Newport 27	Newport 24	Newport 44	Newport 31	Newport 44	Newport 26	Newport 33	Newport 58
West Pittston 33	Sugar Notch 32	Shickshinny 22	Sugar Notch 23	Alumni (41) 29	Alumni (36) 50	Old Forge 30	Shickshinny 23

Infantile Paralysis Benefit

Newport 35
Swoyersville 33

WYOMING VALLEY LEAGUE GAMES (won 14 lost 2)

Newport 27	Newport 36	Newport 38	Newport 35	Newport 45	Newport 33	Newport 32	Newport 42
Berwick 26	Hanover 18	Kingston 27	GAR 25	Nanticoke 24	Plymouth 27	Meyers 27	Coughlin 28
Newport 23	Newport 35	Newport 46	Newport 35	Newport 46	Newport 53	Newport 50	Newport 51
Berwick 50	Hanover 30	GAR 37	Kingston 52	Plymouth 44	Nanticoke 27	Coughlin 30	Meyers 32

PLAY OFF

Newport 32
Berwick 40



There were several **Santa** sightings in the Township before Christmas. Above left and at left, Santa took time out from his busy schedule to appear at a lunch in his honor at the **Italian Club** in Glen Lyon on December 8. Above middle and at right, Santa arrived on the Fire Truck at the Municipal Building on December 14. Assisted by elves from the **Newport Township Women's Activity Group**, he handed out stockings filled with goodies and coloring books. The children signed a "Nice List" on their way out.



Sponsored by **Newport United**, the annual Township Christmas Tree Lighting took place on Sunday December 8. Hot chocolate, cookies, and cake were served, and three food trucks were available. Everyone was excited when the countdown began and the Christmas Tree lit up the Municipal grounds. Carols were sung and Santa gave the children popcorn and candy canes and listened to their secret wishes.

Merry Christmas...Ho Ho Ho!





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This is a gentle reminder to send us your annual subscription fee of \$10 to us after you receive each winter newsletter in the mail. The cost of mailing the newsletters has risen through the years and it has become more difficult for the NTCO to absorb the cost of unpaid subscriptions. Any donations will be gladly accepted. Please make your checks out to the NTCO. Thank you!

Editors Heidi and Paul Jarecki



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- \$30.00 One-tenth-page or Business Card Size Ad
- \$50.00 Quarter-page Size Ad
- \$85.00 One-half-page Size Ad
- \$150.00 Full-page Size Ad

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

We would be honored and proud to have you as a member of the Newport Township Community Organization. Your membership will show approval of and help support our many projects to benefit your hometown! Membership is \$5.00 per year per person based on the calendar year January through December or a lifetime membership is available for \$50.00. Send application with fee to NTCO, 113 Railroad Ave., Wanamie, Nanticoke, PA 18634.

Name _____
Street Address _____
City, State _____
Zip Code _____
Phone number _____
Email address _____

NTCO NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTION

NTCO will make available printed copies of its quarterly newsletter to those living outside the area. An annual fee of \$10.00 covers the cost of mailing via the US Postal Service. Send your check payable to "NTCO" to Heidi Jarecki, 28 W. Main St., Glen Lyon, PA 18617; email: hselecky@pa.metrocast.net

If you have internet access, please furnish your email address to Thomas Kashatus at tomkashatus@gmail.com to be entered into our data base. You will then be notified of new publications on NTCO's website at <http://www.newporttownship.com>. Photographs on internet publications are viewable in color. Hard copies are printed in black and white.

Name _____
Address _____
City, State _____
Zip Code _____
Phone number _____
Email address _____

Volunteers Needed!

The NTCO strongly encourages residents to get involved in whatever community activity best fits their interests and talents. There are several organizations to choose from: The Women's Activity Group, Little League Baseball, The Lions Club, The Newport Township Crime Watch, the Veterans' Groups, The Newport Township Community Organization, The Fire Department, and Emergency Management. In addition to performing charitable and protective services, the groups also provide social opportunities as well. Won't you join us?

MONTHLY FOOD DISTRIBUTION

The Newport Township Community Organization and the Weinberg Regional Food Bank are working together to host a Food Distribution for those in need.

With the cooperation of the Township Board of Commissioners and Township Manager Joe Hillan, outdoor distributions take place in a drive-through format on the second Saturday of the month between 11 am and 12 noon. Seasonal fruits and vegetables, along with milk, canned goods, rice and pasta are among the foods available. The distributions take place in the Municipal Garage adjacent to the Municipal Building on Kirmar Parkway in Wanamie when available. Alternate site is the parking lot in the Wanamie Recreation Park. All recipients must pre-register at least five days before the event.

Palmira Miller chairs this event for the NTCO. She can be reached at 570-592-7876.



Reilly Finishing Technologies in Sheatown sponsors an annual Christmas Tree Project by which money is raised to support local charities and non-profits. Pictured left is Heidi Jarecki next to the NTCO Tree. The Lighting took place December 5 on Christmas Tree Lane on Alden Road.

250th Anniversary T-shirts Still Available

In commemoration of the **Township's 250th Anniversary**, the NTCO is offering T-shirts. The design is copied from the three banners installed in the Township last year. With a donation of \$15.00, it will be yours! Limited availability in sizes S (2), M (1), XL (3), 2XL (1), and 3XL (7). Contact Heidi Jarecki at 28 West Main Street, Glen Lyon or call 570-733-2540. Add \$6.00 for mailing.

NEWPORT TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION OFFICERS/CONTACTS

President: Stephen Phillips 570-735-3991
Vice President: Tom Kashatus 570-736-6981
Secretary/Treasurer: Linda Conner 570-829-0801
Assistant Secretary/Treasurer: John Jarecki 570-736-6620
Newsletter Editors: Heidi & Paul Jarecki 570-733-2540
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~ The Late Honorable Paul R. Selecky